School of Nursing

Degrees Offered

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Introduction

The mission of the WVU School of Nursing is to lead in improving health in West Virginia and the broader society through excellence in student-centered educational programs, research and scholarship, the compassionate practice of nursing, and service to the public and the profession. This mission is responsive to changing healthcare needs and emerging national and state changes in technology and healthcare delivery and is enhanced by a supportive and open environment. The faculty’s educational effort is directed at providing high quality, student-centered programs of instruction at all levels which prepare superb professional nurses to meet basic healthcare needs; advance practiced nurses to address complex health needs; and enable doctorally educated nurses to advance nursing knowledge through research, to assist in the formulation of policies to improve health care, and to serve as faculty in higher degree programs. Unique characteristics of the state mandates that the healthcare needs of rural populations and vulnerable groups be a major focus of education, research, and service, including faculty practice.

The School of Nursing offers undergraduate, graduate, and post graduate certificates of study. The baccalaureate program (BSN) is available for high school graduates who aspire to a career in nursing (basic students) and to registered nurses (RN) who are licensed graduates of associate degree or diploma nursing programs seeking to continue their career development. In addition, a BS/BA to BSN program is available for the college graduate seeking a BSN.

The WVU School of Nursing and the WVU College of Business and Economics offers a dual master's degree program to provide the skills and knowledge necessary to serve as a nurse leader. This blended degree program (totaling 67 credit hours) is done predominately online, and includes four 3-4 day residencies. Students take courses from both the MSN and MBA program concurrently. Graduates of the MSN (Executive Focus) and MBA program can work in a variety of settings, including hospitals, private practice, nonprofit organizations and public sectors.

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing to Doctor of Nursing Practice (BSN-DNP) prepares baccalaureate prepared nurses for advanced practice roles in primary care. These roles include family nurse practitioner and pediatric nurse practitioner specialties. Students are awarded the Master of Science (MSN) degree and are eligible to sit for certification as an advanced practice nurse upon completing 48 hours of the program. At that time they may progress to the DNP or select to exit the program with the MSN degree.

Post-graduate nurse practitioner certificate programs for family nurse practitioner and pediatric nurse practitioner are available for those who already have an MSN. The RN to MSN program also has these role specialties available.

The doctor of nursing practice (DNP) prepares advanced practice nurses who will practice at the highest level of professional nursing and will advance the application of nursing knowledge for the purpose of improving healthcare for diverse populations.

The doctor of philosophy in nursing (PhD) prepares nurse scholars/scientists for roles in research, teaching and service. The program prepares graduates who will contribute to the body of nursing knowledge, educate the next generation, and lead, ultimately impacting health policy, improving health, and reducing disparity.

Accreditation

The baccalaureate degree program in nursing/master's degree program in nursing/Doctor of Nursing Practice program at West Virginia University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791.

Fees, Expenses, Housing, Transportation, and Immunization

Students enrolling at the Morgantown campus pay fees which are detailed at http://admissions.wvu.edu/pay. Special fees and deposits are also required. Students enrolling at other sites pay the fees shown in the catalog for that site. Fees are subject to change without notice. Students’ expenses vary according to the course of study and individual needs. Information concerning financial assistance, application forms, and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form may be obtained from the financial aid website at https://financialaid.wvu.edu/students/professional-hsc or by contacting the HSC Financial Aid Office, PO Box 9810, Morgantown, WV 26506-9810; telephone (304) 293-3706 (toll free) or 1-800-344-WVU1.

The University Housing and Residence Life Office, telephone (304) 293-4491, provides information concerning university-owned housing. The Student Life Office in E. Moore Hall, telephone (304) 293-5611, provides information concerning privately owned, off-campus housing.

Students are expected to provide their own transportation, equipment, and instruments for the clinical courses. Some clinical experiences require travel in a multi-county area.

Students entering the BSN or BS/BA - BSN program are required to participate in the WVU Health Sciences Center Student Computer Program. A laptop computer will be issued to all students entering these programs. Please visit the School of Nursing website at http://nursing.hsc.wvu.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/bachelor-of-science/program-information/ for more information.
Proof of specific immunizations is required for all health sciences students. Students in the BSN, BA/BS to BSN, BSN-DNP, and post graduate certificate master of science in nursing program must undergo a criminal background check prior to clinical courses. Felony convictions and serious misdemeanors may preclude participation in the clinical courses. This could, in turn, prevent the completion of course requirements and completion of the nursing programs.

Scholarships

The School of Nursing offers several scholarships. These scholarships are administered by the Health Science Center Financial Aid Office and require completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form in order to be considered for financial aid. Most School of Nursing scholarships are available only to students already admitted to the School of Nursing and are awarded each April for the following academic year. However, there are a limited number of scholarships for which students may apply before admission. Further information is provided on the School of Nursing website: http://nursing.hsc.wvu.edu/academics/current-students/.

Additional Information

Visit the School of Nursing website at http://nursing.hsc.wvu.edu/. Call the WVU school of Nursing Office of Student Services at 1-866-WVUNURS or (304) 293-1386. Write to WVU School of Nursing at PO Box 9600, Morgantown, WV 26506-9600.

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    Professor

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  • Lisa Onega - PhD (University of Virginia)
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  • Ubolrat Piamjariyakul - PhD (University of Kansas)
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• Suzanne Gross - PhD (University of Texas)
• Dorothy M. Johnson - EdD (West Virginia University)
• Kathleen Marsland - MS (University of Colorado)

Degree Designation Learning Outcomes

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (BSN)

Upon completion of the BSN program, graduates will:

CRITICAL THINKING: Employ scholarly inquiry and evidence-based reasoning and creativity in the process of assessment, interpretation, analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and inference as a basis for professional nursing practice.

NURSING INTERVENTIONS: Ensure quality care by applying theory, evidence-based clinical judgment and decision-making, and patient care technology in the delivery of safe and skilled nursing therapeutics with individuals, families, communities, and populations across the health-illness continuum.

PROFESSIONAL ROLE: Demonstrate knowledge, attitudes, professional values, personal qualities and behaviors consistent with the nursing roles of health care designer and coordinator, organization and system leader, and advocate for consumers and the nursing profession.

CARING: Provide empathetic, culturally sensitive, and compassionate care for individuals, families, communities, and populations that upholds moral, legal, and ethical humanistic principles.

COMMUNICATION: Integrate therapeutic, interpersonal, intraprofessional, interprofessional and informatics communication processes in professional nursing practice.

Academic Standards and Graduation Requirements

To be in good academic standing, students must:

• Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better in all college work attempted for pre-licensure programs and a 2.5 for RN-BSN students.
• Pass all nursing courses and pre- or co-requisite non-nursing courses with a grade of C or better

A student who receives a grade of D, F, or W in a required nursing course or pre- or co-requisite non-nursing course may repeat that course once and must earn a grade of C or better when the course is repeated. Students who repeat a nursing course or a pre- or co-requisite non-nursing course and earn a grade of D, F, or W will be dismissed from the school. A student may repeat only one nursing course. Students who do not maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better for pre-licensed programs and a 2.5 for RN-BSN will be placed on probation for one semester. Students on probation who do not raise their cumulative GPA to 3.0 or better for pre-licensed programs and a 2.5 for RN-BSN after one semester will be dismissed from the School of Nursing. Nursing courses and pre- and co-requisite courses in which students earn a grade of D, F, or W must be repeated prior to the student's progression to the next course(s) in the nursing sequence. Nursing courses must be repeated in the next fall or spring semester that the course is offered. Any general education course that is not a pre- or co-requisite of nursing courses and in which a grade of D or F has been earned must be repeated prior to graduation if it is to be counted toward graduation requirements. The baccalaureate of science in nursing degree for the traditional BSN program is conferred upon completion of 122 hours and all required courses. The baccalaureate of science in nursing degree for the RN-BSN program is conferred upon completion of 120 hours and all required courses. The baccalaureate of science in nursing degree for the BS/BA-BSN second degree students is conferred upon completion of 64 hours and all required courses.

NSG 001. Nursing Experiential Learning. 50-75 Hours.
Students will not register for this course but it will show on their official transcript. Grade will be listed as CR.

NSG 100. Introduction to Nursing. 2 Hours.
Introduction to the role of the nurse in modern health care: critical thinking, nursing interventions, professionalism, caring and communication in nursing practice with emphasis on safety, quality, health, culture, ethics, leadership, and health policy.

NSG 191. First-Year Seminar. 1-3 Hours.
Engages students in active learning strategies that enable effective transition to college life at WVU. Students will explore school, college and university programs, policies and services relevant to academic success. Provides active learning activities that enable effective transition to the academic environment. Students examine school, college and university programs, policies and services.

NSG 211. Health Assessment & Communication. 6 Hours.
PR: NSG 100 with a minimum grade of C-. Examination of concepts, principles, and models that guide nursing practice related to physical, psychosocial, spiritual, developmental, cultural, intellectual assessment and communication across the lifespan in the classroom, simulation, and various clinical settings.
NSG 212. Foundations of Nursing Practice. 6 Hours.
PR: NSG 211 with a minimum grade of C-. Theories, concepts, principles, and processes that lay the foundation for critical thinking, nursing interventions, communication, professional role and caring in the practice of nursing. Application of the nursing process in classroom, simulation, and clinical experiences.

NSG 276. Evidence Based Practice and Research. 3 Hours.
PR: NSG 211 and NSG 212 and (STAT 201 or STAT 211) with a minimum grade of C- in each. Theory, concepts, and methods of the research process intended to provide a basic understanding that is necessary for the translation of current evidence into nursing practice.

NSG 293. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

NSG 298. Honors. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Students in the Honors Program and consent by the honors director. Independent reading, study or research.

NSG 310. Maternal Infant Nursing & Women’s Health Care. 4 Hours.
PR: NSG 212 and PR or CONC: NSG 311 and NSG 376 with a minimum grade of C-. Human response to normal and abnormal changes in health status across the female lifespan and adaptations of the childbearing family. Provision of the holistic nursing care to women and childbearing families in the clinical area.

NSG 311. Alterations in Adult Health 1. 6 Hours.
PR: NSG 311 and NSG 376 with a minimum grade of C- in each. Pathophysiology and holistic nursing care of adults experiencing acute and chronic problems. Use of the nursing process to plan and provide interventions appropriate to health care needs in the clinical setting.

NSG 312. Alterations in Adult Health 2. 6 Hours.
PR: NSG 312 and RN licensure. Builds on NSG 311 using critical thinking and nursing process in a team based learning format, paired with clinical application, to explore holistic nursing care of adults with acute and chronic health problems.

NSG 320. Child and Adolescent Health. 4 Hours.
PR: NSG 311 and NSG 376 with a minimum grade of C- in each. Didactic and clinical experiences focused on human response to alterations in health, developmental needs, and family-centered care specific to pediatric population with emphasis on the professional nursing role, evidence-based reasoning, therapeutic communications, and caring.

NSG 333. Ethics in Nursing. 3 Hours.
PR: ENGL 102 with a minimum grade of C-. Ethical issues and decision making in nursing and health care situations across the lifespan. Emphasizes professional writing skills.

NSG 340. Professional Role Transition. 3 Hours.
PR: RN licensure. The course focuses on concepts and principles of professional nursing inherent in the curriculum of the School of Nursing. Emphasis is placed on how these concepts and principles affect nursing role.

NSG 360. Ethics and Health Policy. 3 Hours.
PR: NSG 212 and ENGL 102 with a minimum grade of C- in each. Ethical decision-making in health care situations across the lifespan, including palliative and end of life care. Health care policy, legal and regulatory issues are discussed.

NSG 361. Health Assessment. 3 Hours.
Holistic health assessment of individuals and families across the lifespan, including physical, psychosocial, spiritual, and developmental assessment.

NSG 362. Clinical Health Promotion. 3 Hours.
PR: RN licensure. Theory and practice of promoting health and wellness for individuals and families across the lifespan. Emphasis will be placed on integrating knowledge and behaviors that support movement toward optimal health.

NSG 371. Basic Parish Nurse Education. 3 Hours.
Explores the nurse's role in managing care within faith communities. Focus is on dimensions of nurse's role: spiritual caregiver, health promoter, counselor, advocate, educator, care coordinator, resource agent and manager of developing practice.

NSG 372. Safety, Quality, and Information Technology. 2 Hours.
PR: RN Licensure. Examination of healthcare through information management to promote patient safety and quality of care. Emphasis on assessing and improving quality through prevention of adverse and never events.

NSG 373. Leadership in Organizations. 3 Hours.
PR: ENGL 102 with a minimum grade of C-. Leadership and management principles related to professional nursing roles in organizations and systems including system theory, change theory, and inter-professional team building.

NSG 374. School of Nursing Simulation Experience. 2 Hours.
PR: NSG 311 with a minimum grade of C- and for nursing students with second semester Junior or Senior status. Simulated patient care experiences in a safe practice environment.
NSG 375. ACLS Elective. 1 Hour.
PR: NSG 312 with a minimum grade of C-. The Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) Provider Course is designed for healthcare providers who either direct or participated in the management of cardiopulmonary arrest or other cardiovascular emergencies. Through didactic and active participation in simulated cases, students will enhance their skills in the recognition and intervention of cardiopulmonary arrest, immediate post-cardiac arrest, acute arrhythmia, stroke, and acute coronary syndromes.

NSG 376. Clinical Nursing Pharmacology. 3 Hours.
PR: NSG 211 with a minimum grade of C-. Principles of pharmacology emphasizing scholarly inquiry and evidence-based reasoning to insure accurate knowledge of and administration of medications to individuals and families across the lifespan. Pharmacological management is analyzed in conjunction with pathophysiology.

NSG 393. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

NSG 400. Spirituality and Health. 3 Hours.
In this course, students will examine the mind/body/spirit connection that occurs in the process of healing and wellness. Theories and practices of relationships between mind/body/spirit will be examined as they impact health/wellness of patients.

NSG 411. Nursing in Complex Community Systems. 7 Hours.
PR: NSG 276 and NSG 310 and NSG 312 and NSG 320 and NSG 360 with a minimum grade of C- in each. Comprehensive theoretical introduction to community health nursing paired with clinical experience focused on promoting health and preventing disease in multiple populations. Culminates in a capstone project that addresses an identified community health need.

NSG 412. Leadership in Complex Systems. 7 Hours.
PR: (NSG 312 and NSG 360 and NSG 450) with a grade of C or better. Development of leadership and management skills necessary for professional nursing practice and interventions supporting multiple patients in acute-care complex systems. Classroom experiences paired with 225 hours of precepted leadership experience.

NSG 433. Seminar 8: Professional Role Synthesis. 3 Hours.
PR: NSG 343. Emphasis is on implementation of the professional nursing role within a changing health care system. Focuses on analysis of societal, institutional and economic factors that affect the delivery of health care.

NSG 443. Seminar 6: Professional Role Development. 2 Hours.
Emphasis on professional nursing role in health promotion/ risk reduction in groups/communities of vulnerable populations. Focuses on multidisciplinary team approaches to problem solving in community health.

NSG 450. Alterations in Mental Health. 4 Hours.
PR: NSG 310 and NSG 312 and NSG 320 and NSG 360 with a minimum grade of C- in each. Theory and Practice of professional nursing in response to complex alterations in psychosocial function and their impact on individuals, families, and communities. Classroom and clinical experiences.

NSG 460. Care of the Critically Ill Patient. 4 Hours.
PR: NSG 312 and NSG 411 and NSG 450 with a minimum grade of C- in each. Focuses on the professional nursing role in supporting individuals and families experiencing complex physiological alterations in health. Paired with clinical experiences supporting individuals and families in critical care settings.

NSG 461. Health Policy for Professional Nursing Practice. 3 Hours.
PR: RN licensure. Fosters an appreciation for how policy drives the organization and financing of health care and shapes professional nursing practice. Issues of access to care, cost effectiveness, and quality of care are discussed and policy implications are considered.

NSG 465. Foundations of Research and Evidence Based Practice. 3 Hours.
PR: ENGL 102 and PR or CONC: (STAT 201 or STAT 211) with a minimum grade of C- in all. Introduction to the development and application of evidence with an emphasis on the fundamental elements of the research process, appraisal of current evidence, and interpretation of evidence to improve patient outcomes.

NSG 471. Community Health Nursing: Theory and Interventions. 4 Hours.
PR: NSG 362 with a minimum grade of C-. Concentrates on health promotion, disease and injury prevention to promote conditions and behaviors that improve the health of individuals, families, aggregates, communities, and populations through identifying determinants of health, available resources, and interventions.

NSG 475. Applied Research and Evidence Based Practice. 4 Hours.
PR: NSG 333 and NSG 371 and NSG 372 and NSG 461 and NSG 465 and PR or CONC: NSG 471 with a minimum grade of C- in all. Advanced study of the evaluation, integration, and dissemination of reliable evidence from multiple sources including scientific evidence and patient/family preferences to inform practice and make clinical judgments to improve patient outcomes. This course is the capstone course for the RN to BSN program.

NSG 477. NCLEX Remediation. 1-2 Hours.
PR: Consent. Course focus is on achievement of professional success by reinforcing/remediating preparation for RN NCLEX exam and enhancing NCLEX testing skills.

NSG 478. The Role of the Nurse in the Patient Experience. 2 Hours.
PR: NSG 212 with a minimum grade of C-. Didactic experience focused on exploring the nurse's role in the patient's and family's healthcare experience.
NSG 479. Care of the Hospitalized Obese Patient. 2 Hours.  
PR: NSG 312 or Consent. Multifaceted approach to the care of a hospitalized obese patient. The linkage of Obesity to Metabolic Syndrome will be presented so there is clear understanding of pathologic processes. The pathophysiology of each body system will be explored and evidence based practice interventions specific to each condition will be presented.

NSG 480. Core Concepts in Gerontological Nursing. 2 Hours.  
PR: NSG 211 and NSG 212 with a minimum grade of C- in each and Junior or Senior standing. Examination of patient specific concepts, nursing assessments, interventions, and models of care that guide nursing practice related to holistic care of the older adult.

NSG 481. Cardiac Nursing. 2 Hours.  
PR: NSG juniors and seniors. Introduction to the interpretation and treatment of cardiac arrhythmias.

NSG 482. Palliative Care Nursing. 2 Hours.  
Focus is on the care of patients with chronic non-curable conditions across the life span. The course analyzes the definition of palliative care and defines the role of hospice as a part of palliative care. Cultural sensitivity and communication with palliative care patients and their families is emphasized.

NSG 483. Holistic and Integrative Nursing. 2 Hours.  
PR: NSG 212 with a minimum grade of C-. Theory and principles of holistic nursing and an introduction to alternative/complementary health therapies. Experiential learning and application of content to clinical setting will be explored.

NSG 484. Care of the Diabetic Patient. 2 Hours.  
PR: Consent. In-depth analysis of nursing care of the patient with diabetes.

NSG 485. Children With Complex Health Needs. 2 Hours.  
PR: NSG 320 with a minimum grade of C-. The nursing care of children with complex acute and chronic health problems with a focus on decision-making using a case study problem based learning approach.

NSG 486. NCLEX Review. 1 Hour.  
PR: Senior status. Focuses on achievement of professional success by preparing for RN licensure. Preparation for NCLEX will be the focus of this by enhancing NCLEX testing skills.

NSG 487. Movies and Mental Health. 2 Hours.  
Representations of psychopathological states in films within the context of contemporary social issues such as stigma and discrimination. Examination of personal biases towards psychiatric illnesses and how biases interfere with advocacy roles of practicing nurses.

NSG 488. Generics/Genomics in Health. 2 Hours.  
Fundamentals of genetics and genomics for clinical practice with analysis of current state of the sciences and research translation. Genetic and genomic concepts within the context of current and future clinical applications, theories and therapeutics.

NSG 489. Reproductive Issues in Women. 2 Hours.  
PR: NSG 310 and Nursing major. this course reviews reproductive health issues and prepares students for careers in maternal/child care. Complications, diseases, genetics, and nursing care: pre/intra and postpartum will be addressed.

NSG 493. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.  
PR: Consent. Investigation of topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

NSG 495. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.  
Faculty supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

NSG 496. Senior Thesis. 1-3 Hours.  
PR: Consent.

NSG 497. Research. 1-6 Hours.  
Independent research projects.

The School of Nursing has specialized accreditation through the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

The baccalaureate degree program in nursing, the master's degree program in nursing and the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at West Virginia University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791.